

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

Claim 1. (currently amended) A manipulable puzzle cube, comprising a plurality of cubic elements connected to a centrally positioned interior connecting element, the cubic elements of each surface of the cube forming a plate of cubic elements, the plate being rotatable about a spatial axis of the cube, each of the cubic elements having one or more exposed faces, wherein all portions of each of the cubic elements are formed from a material having a selected colour, whereby all of the exposed faces of a given cubic element are the same colour, the colour being selected from a group of colours comprising at least two different colours, wherein the colour of each cubic element is selected so that the cubic elements form a decorative pattern on each surface of the cube, when the cube is in an undisturbed state, the decorative pattern being formed by the at least two different colours.

Claim 2. (original) The puzzle cube defined in claim 1, wherein the decorative pattern is the same on each surface of the cube.

Claim 3. (original) The puzzle cube defined in claim 1, wherein the group of colours comprises a first colour and a second contrasting colour.

Claim 4. (original) The puzzle cube defined in claim 1, wherein the cube is a 3x3x3 cube comprising 26 cubic elements connected to the interior connecting element, with each surface of the cube comprising a 3x3 array of cubic elements, the array having three rows of cubic elements, three columns of cubic elements, and two diagonals of cubic elements.

Claim 5. (original) The puzzle cube defined in claim 4, wherein the decorative pattern comprises a "Y" pattern, wherein in the case of each surface of the cube, one corner element, the mid-face element and two of the mid-edge elements not adjacent to the corner element are of a first colour, and the remaining cubic elements of the surface are of the contrasting colour.

Claim 6. (original) The puzzle cube defined in claim 4, wherein the decorative pattern comprises a no "tic-tac-toe" pattern, wherein the cubic elements making up each of the rows, the columns, and the diagonals of the array are not of the same colour.

Claim 7. (original) The puzzle cube defined in claim 2, comprising 26 cubic elements, wherein the 26 cubic elements comprise eight corner cubic elements having three exposed faces, 12 mid-edge cubic elements having two exposed faces, and six mid-face cubic elements having one exposed face.

Claim 8. (currently amended) The puzzle cube defined in claim 1, wherein ~~the cubic elements are made of the material is coloured plastic. and all portions of a given element are the same colour.~~

Claim 9. (original) The puzzle cube defined in claim 8, wherein the cubic elements are injection-molded.

Claim 10. (original) The puzzle cube defined in claim 1, wherein the decorative pattern resembles the appearance of a cake, wherein the cubic elements forming a top plate of the cube are of a first colour, and the cubic elements forming a middle plate of the cube and a bottom plate of the cube are of a second colour.

Claim 11. (original) The puzzle cube defined in claim 1, wherein the decorative pattern is a three-colour pattern, wherein the cubic elements making up a top plate of the cube are a first colour, the cubic elements making up a middle plate of the cube are a second colour, and the cubic elements making up a bottom plate of the cube are a third colour.

Claim 12. (original) The puzzle cube defined in claim 1, wherein the decorative pattern is a nine-colour pattern, wherein each of the cubic elements forming a given surface of the cube is a different colour.

Claim 13. (currently amended) ~~The A-manipulable puzzle cube defined in claim 1, comprising a plurality of cubic elements connected to a centrally positioned interior connecting element, the cubic elements of each surface of the cube forming a plate of cubic elements, the plate being rotatable about a spatial axis of the cube, each of the cubic elements having one or more exposed faces, wherein the cube is a 3x3x3 cube comprising 26 cubic elements connected to the interior connecting element, with each surface of the cube comprising a 3x3 array of cubic elements, the array having three rows of cubic elements, three columns of cubic elements, and two diagonals of cubic elements, wherein all portions of each of the cubic elements are formed from a material having a selected colour, whereas all of the exposed faces of each of the cubic elements are the same colour, the colour being selected from a group of colours comprising at least two contrasting colours, wherein the colour of each cubic element is selected so that the cubic elements form a decorative pattern on each surface of the cube, wherein the decorative pattern is the same on at least some surfaces of the cube, the decorative pattern being formed by the at least two different colours.~~

Claim 14. (original) The puzzle cube defined in claim 13, wherein the decorative pattern comprises a "Y" pattern, wherein in the case of each surface of the cube, one corner element, the mid-face element and two of the mid-edge elements not adjacent to the corner element are of a first colour, and the remaining cubic elements of the surface are of the contrasting colour.

Claim 15. (original) The puzzle cube defined in claim 13, wherein the decorative pattern comprises a no "tic-tac-toe" pattern, wherein the cubic elements making up each of the rows, the columns, and the diagonals of the array are not of the same colour.

Claim 16. (original) The puzzle cube defined in claim 13, wherein the decorative pattern resembles the appearance of a cake, wherein the cubic elements forming a top plate of the cube are of a first colour, and the cubic elements forming a middle plate of the cube and a bottom plate of the cubic are of a second colour.

Claim 17. (original) The puzzle cube defined in claim 13, wherein the decorative pattern is a three-colour pattern, wherein the cubic elements making up a top plate of the cube are a first colour, the cubic elements making up a middle plate of the cube are a second colour, and the cubic elements making up a bottom plate of the cube are a third colour.

Claim 18. (currently amended) The puzzle cube defined in claim 13, wherein the decorative pattern is a nine-colour pattern, wherein each of the cubic elements forming a given surface of the cube is a different colour.

Claim 19. (new) A manipulable puzzle cube, comprising a plurality of cubic elements connected to a centrally positioned interior connecting element, the cubic elements of each surface of the cube forming a plate of cubic elements, the plate being rotatable about a spatial axis of the cube, each of the cubic elements having one or more exposed faces, wherein each of the cubic elements is integrally formed from a plastic material of a selected colour, the colour being selected from a group of colours comprising at least two different colours, and wherein the cubic elements are arranged so that the cubic elements form a decorative pattern on the each surface of the cube, the decorative pattern being formed by the at least two different colours, wherein the decorative pattern is disturbed when the cubic elements are rearranged by random manipulation of the plate, thereby crating a challenging puzzle.

Claim 20. (new) A manipulable puzzle cube, comprising a plurality of cubic elements connected to a centrally positioned interior connecting element, the cubic elements of each surface of the cube forming a plate of cubic elements, the plate being rotatable about a spatial axis of the cube, each of the cubic elements having one or more exposed faces, wherein all of the exposed faces of each of the given cubic elements are the same colour, the colour being selected from a group of colours comprising at least three colours, wherein the colour of each cubic element is selected so that the cubic elements form a decorative pattern on each surface of the cube, when the cube is in an undisturbed state, the decorative pattern being formed by the at least three different colours.